

# THE JOURNAL



OF THE

## PACIFIC COAST NUMISMATIC SOCIETY

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# PACIFIC COAST NUMISMATIC SOCIETY

1915 — Celebrating 75 Years of Service to Numismatics — 1990

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610 Arlington Avenue, Berkeley, CA 94707

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## JOURNAL STAFF:

Editors	David F. Cieniewicz Rebecca A. Cieniewicz P.O. Box 2698 Redwood City, CA 94064
Publisher	Paul D. Holtzman
Typesetting & Graphics	Stephen M. Huston

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## P.C.N.S. CALENDAR OF COMING EVENTS

April 25, 1990, Wednesday at 8:00 pm:

*Paper Money and Related Items*

**Speaker: Don T. Thrall**

May 30, 1990, Wednesday at 8:00 pm:

*Lindbergh Memorabilia*

**Speaker: O. L. Wallis**

June 30, 1990, Saturday at 7:00 pm:

*75th Anniversary Banquet*

**The New San Remo Restaurant, 2237 Mason St., S.F.**

No-host Cocktails begin at 6:00 pm

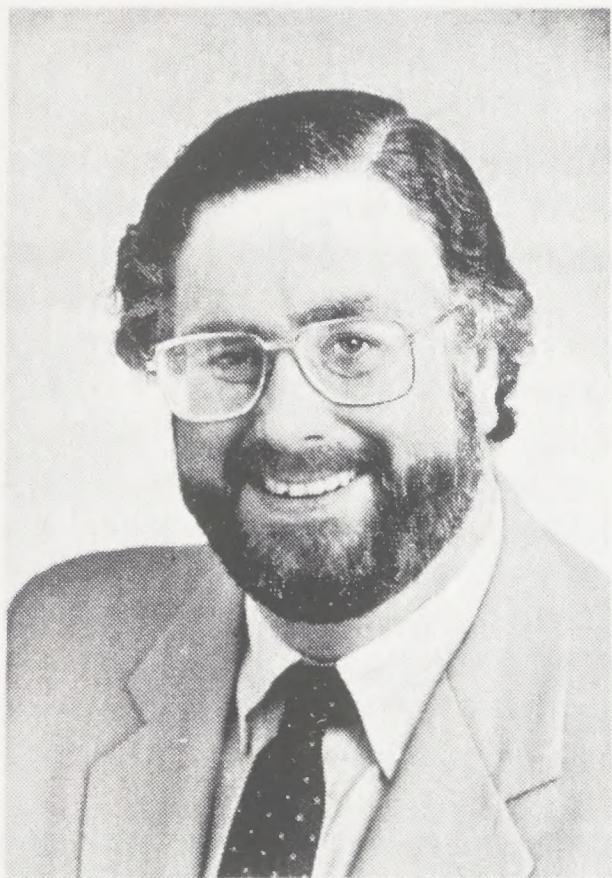
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Monthly meetings are held at The New Telephone Museum in San Francisco  
1515 -19th Avenue (between Kirkham & Lawton). Guests are invited.



# MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

by Rick Webster



In my last message I encouraged the members of the Society to write articles for The Journal. My request now must become an urgent plea. Our journal editors have exhausted their supply of articles. If you have been thinking about or working on an article—as I have—it is time for us to put our thoughts on paper and submit them to the editors.

Editors Dave and Becky Cieniewicz would like to expand The Journal from twenty-eight to thirty-two pages. Obviously, to do this we need articles.

Is there an area of your collection or a particular piece in it that has an interesting story behind it? There probably is, and we would like to hear about it. Any numismatic subject is wel-

come. Please do not think that your collecting interest is only interesting to you and does not deserve to be written about. Articles can be of any length from a paragraph or two on a particular coin to a longer article on a special subject.

The articles submitted by our members and friends of the Society earned The Journal the American Numismatic Association Regional Publication Award for 1989. Let's continue the good work and see if we can win it again this year.

On another subject, we will be holding our seventy-fifth anniversary banquet in June. Good food, good friends, a gala bingo game and special anniversary events will make this an exciting evening. Watch the bulletin for the date and time. Plan on being there.

*Rick Webster*



## From Cilician Silt:

### AN ARMENIAN MEDIEVAL BRONZE GROUP

by L. A. Saryan

Treasure hunting has long been one of the favorite pastimes of the average Middle Eastern peasant. About three-quarters of a century ago, W. J. Childs, an English traveller in Cilicia, marvelled at the abundance of early bronze coins that could be found in that region. At Enighil (a village on the road from Caesarea to Tarsus), local peasants brought the traveller an assortment of antiquities for his consideration. "Of bronze coins at least a hundred must have been in the room," writes Childs, adding that most "belonged to the old Greek cities and states of Asia Minor, whose small bronze money may be found in the hands of most peasants. Such coins are seldom of much value and generally represent the unsaleable residue, for Armenian and Greek merchants have an eye to these things, and nearly every coin you see has been submitted to possible buyers many times before.... As an indication, however, of the country's interest for the numismatist, consider this: that at the present day the inhabitants of various districts find it profitable to search for coins in their ploughed fields after heavy rain." <sup>1</sup>

Today, search techniques have become more sophisticated and the activity more intense. Prospectors armed with high-tech metal detectors are relentlessly probing the soil and mud of Cilicia and northern Syria, turning up literally thousands of coins and metallic artifacts, including many of Armenian origin, without much effort. The alluvial plains created by silt and debris washed down from the Taurus mountains, especially in the region between the coastal towns of Mersin and Ayas, provide an ideal hunting ground.<sup>2</sup>

During the Crusades, Cilicia was the seat of a powerful Armenian barony and later a kingdom which flourished for nearly three centuries (1080-1375).<sup>3</sup> Historians, archaeologists and numismatists agree upon this historical fact, but in Turkey today the barest mention of the subject is apparently extremely controversial. In December 1986, the editor of the Turkish edition of Encyclopedia Britannica, Hilda Hulya Potuoglu, was apprehended by Turkish security police and imprisoned for making this simple factual statement in the encyclopedia. Besides providing amusement for amateur numismatists, coin discoveries such as this one serve as testimony to the culture and achievements of earlier peoples, inevitably exposing attempts to deny or distort historical fact.

The principal currency of the Cilician Armenian kingdom was silver coin, with copper or bronze serving a subsidiary role. The available data has led scholars to suppose that a silver tram was worth about six to ten copper coins, and medieval documents suggest that coppers were occasionally (but rarely) used to make fractional payments for claims and tariffs.<sup>4</sup>

Cilician Armenian bronze coins come in three basic denominations which can be differentiated by weight and diameter as well as by chronology. The





*Hetoum I (1226-1270), bronze tank, similar to coins 2, 3 and 4*

largest of the bronzes were called tanks (which weigh approximately 5-9 grams) and were issued by Levon I and Hetoum I (ca. 1200-1270), the two most powerful kings of the dynasty. The tank gave way to the kardez (ranging from 2-5 grams) which was the standard bronze coinage of Levon II and Hetoum II (ca. 1270-1300). Later kings (between 1300 and 1375) issued the follis or pogh (ordinarily under 3 grams) which diminished substantially in size as the strength of the kingdom waned. The distinction between these denominations is sometimes moot as the few specimens reported in this study show. For example, the bronze pogs of Levon III, a later king, are heavier than the average kardez of Hetoum II. This group reports coins of all three denominations. The gradual diminution of weight and size with time illustrates the declining political and economic fortunes of the Armenian kingdom.

### The Coins

In 1989, this writer purchased from a midwestern dealer a small group of 16 copper or bronze coins recovered from mud in Cilicia or northern Syria. In addition to the coins listed, the original group included an unidentified 4mm Greek bronze piece and a single late Roman bronze which the writer did not purchase. The average cost of about \$4 each could be regarded as a typical price to be paid for recognizable coins from such finds. A brief record of the group indicating the wide range of coins which may be encountered appears below.

Identification and classification of the coins was complicated by sometimes significant corrosion as well as a coating of fine mud which filled the crevices of the coins. Inscriptions are generally only partially preserved, precluding unequivocal readings. Nevertheless, most of the coins could be attributed by ruler and type, and a few scarce varieties were found. Although it is likely that the coins were discovered in the same vicinity, no representation is made that they were concealed intentionally as a group or at any fixed point in time. Rather, they probably represent small change that was lost over many decades in the course of daily activities or transactions, perhaps near a village marketplace or a port where commerce was transacted.

Of the original 18 coins, 14 were struck by the rulers of Cilician Armenia during the 13th and 14th centuries. At least six different Armenian kings are represented. (A catalog of the coins in this group follows on the next page.)



## Catalog of the Find

1. Cilicia, Aegeae or Ayas (2nd-1st century BC). Bronze 21-22mm, 4.50 grams. Obv: Turreted and veiled head of the city goddess; Rev: uncertain design with partial Greek inscription visible. Obverse also shows two counterstamps punched in the design: a 4mm square with a diagonal line (behind the head), and a 6mm diameter circle (on the neck) depicting a sun and rays (?). Seaby 1959. 5
2. Armenia, Hetoum I (1226-1270 AD). Bronze tank, 28-29mm, 6.68 grams. Obv: King seated on throne holding cross and scepter, Armenian inscription; Rev: Cross with rays in each angle, Armenian inscription. Similar to Bedoukian 1296. 6
3. Armenia, Hetoum I. Bronze tank, 27-28mm, 5.18 grams. Obv. and Rev. as #2; similar to Bedoukian 1328.
4. Armenia, Hetoum I. Bronze tank, 29mm, 8.73 grams. Obv. and Rev. as #2; similar to Bedoukian 1339.



*Hetoum II (1289-1306), bronze kardez similar to coin 5*

5. Armenia, Hetoum II (1289-1306 intermittently). Bronze kardez, 19-20mm, 1.84 grams. Obv: King seated oriental fashion holding scepter, Armenian inscription; Rev: Cross, Armenian inscription. Similar to Bedoukian 1621.
6. Armenia, Hetoum II. Bronze kardez, 19mm, 2.96 grams. Obv. as #5; Rev. as #5 except dots in angles of cross. Similar to Bedoukian 1624.
7. Armenia, Hetoum II. Bronze kardez, 20-21mm, 2.44 grams. Obv. and Rev. as #5 except that obverse inscription is repeated on reverse; Scarce. Obv: HETOUM TAK; Rev: HETOUM TAKAV. Unlisted in Bedoukian, but similar to #1649-1653.
8. Armenia, Hetoum II (?). Bronze kardez, 19mm, 2.71 grams. Obv. and Rev. as #5.
9. Armenia, Levon II, Hoetoum II or Levon III (?). Bronze kardez, 21-22mm, 3.39 grams. Obv: uncertain; Rev: Cross, illegible inscription.
10. Armenia, Smpad (1296-1298). Bronze kardez or pogh, 19-20mm, 2.16 grams. Obv: Horse with rider, inscription; Rev: Cross with doves or fleur-de-lis in angles, three dots at the end of each arm (scarce ornate cross variety), inscription. Similar to Bedoukian #1683, 1688, 1690, 1717.
11. Armenia, Levon III (1301-1307). Bronze pogh, 20-21mm, 3.15 grams. Obv: King seated, inscription; Rev: Potent cross, inscription. Sekoulian obverse style 2, reverse cross 4. 7



12. Armenia, Levon III. Bronze pogh, 22mm, 3.94 grams. Obv: similar to #11; Rev: Cross with rays in angles, inscription. Sekoulian obverse style 4, reverse cross 3.



*Levon IV (1320-1342), bronze pogh, similar to coin 13*

13. Armenia, Levon IV (1320-1342). Bronze pogh, 19-20mm, 2.47 grams. Obv: King seated on unusual throne, inscription appearing to end with Armenian letter "S" rather than "A" (spelling error); Rev: Cross with short rays in angles and dot at end of one arm. Similar to Bedoukian 2003.
14. Armenia, uncertain 14th century king. Late bronze pogh, 15-16mm, 1.49 grams. Obv: uncertain; Rev: Cross with Armenian inscription.
15. Armenia, Gosdantin III (1344-1363) (?). Late bronze pogh, 15-16mm, 1.10 grams. Obv: King seated on throne holding cross and fleur-de-lis, inscription; Rev: Cross, dots in angles, inscript. Similar to Bedoukian 2126.
16. Cyprus (?). Uncertain bronze denier, 19mm, 1.30 grams. Obv: Lion rampant (?), illegible inscription; Rev: Potent cross with smaller crosses in the angles, illegible inscription. Attribution to 14th century Cyprus is based on the similarity of the cross to those appearing on coins of Peter I and Peter II of Cyprus. <sup>8</sup>

## FOOTNOTES

1. W. J. Childs, Across Asia Minor on Foot (Edinburgh, 1917), pp. 256-257.
2. Various maps illustrate how the coastline of Cilicia has moved southward over the centuries as a result of deposition of silt carried by the region's three principal rivers, the Pyramus (Ceyhan) on the east, the Sarus (Seyhan), and the Cydnus on the west. See, for example, Paul Z. Bedoukian, Coinage of Cilician Armenia (Danbury, CT, 1979), p. 2.
3. An extended historical survey is provided by Bedoukian, pp. 3-24; for a brief summary see L. A. Saryan, "Armenian Coins and Armenian History", The Journal of the Pacific Coast Numismatic Society No. 18, January 1989, pp.13-15.
4. Bedoukian, pp.29-30, 48-49, 55.
5. H.A. Seaby, Greek Coins and Their Values (London, 1966), p. 154.
6. Reference is to Bedoukian numbers in the corpus of Coinage of Cilician Armenia. All line drawings taken from this work.
7. Reference is to Father O. Sekoulian's classification in Numismatic Researches (Vienna, 1982, in Armenian), pp. 42-43.
8. Jacques de Morgan, The History of the Armenian People (Boston, 1965), pp. 254, 260.





## THE BOOKWORM

by David W. Lange

### *American Counters Part 2: Half Eagle Gold*

The second installment in a series of five volumes dealing with the subject of American game counters has been released by Oak Grove Publications. Titled "American Counters Part 2: Half Eagle Gold", this work by L. B. Fauver updates and clarifies the cataloging efforts of earlier authors in this field and lists an additional 90 or so varieties not published previously. The first installment in this series dealt with double eagle and eagle counters. Future volumes will cover three dollar and quarter eagle gold (part 3), one dollar gold and silver (part 4) and minor coin counters and miscellaneous American counters.

The book consists of two main sections: an introduction and a categorical listing. The former described the medieval origins of counters for both gaming and tallying purposes and establishes that American counters were intended primarily for gaming. Another interesting speculation is that some pieces used as game counters were originally produced as circulating counterfeits of United States gold coins.

The author goes to great effort in distinguishing true counters from the many tokens which have been linked with this field. Purposely excluded from this work are such items as GOOD FOR tokens and speculative mulings of various store cards intended solely for collectors. Items which are included have met the author's criteria for actual counters.



*California \$5 Counter*  
*Fauver no.: Liberty 1849-5 / Calif. 1849-5*

Careful, repeated readings of the introduction are essential if one is to understand the nature of the items listed as counters. Even then, a certain "token literacy" will be helpful to the user. The field is a very complex one, with many of the pieces described as counters overlapping into other areas such as the Hard Times and Civil War series.

*Continued on page 26*



# THE 1946 IOWA STATEHOOD CENTENNIAL COMMEMORATIVE HALF DOLLAR - Part 3



*'Gentlemen, I Am Your Guest'*

by Michael S. "Stan" Turrini



A crowd of some 15,000 to 20,000 angry union members and followers had gathered at the western steps of the Iowa state capitol building in Des Moines. Aroused and irritated by Iowa's recent adoption of a right-to-work law, this crowd had come to protest and to demand to see Iowa's governor. Iowa's right-to-work law, which banned labor contracts mandating union membership as an employment condition, was a result of the 1947 Taft-Hartley Act granting the states such authority. To the surprise of the crowd, politicians and the press, their heated demand was accepted when Governor Robert D. Blue (1898-1989) came out and spoke to the large gathering, which to this day is the largest ever assembled at the Iowa state capitol building.

As Governor Blue began to speak, someone from the huge crowd booed. Governor Blue paused and politely remarked, "Gentlemen, I am your guest." All disruptions, planned or unintentional, stopped, and the governor had the crowd's attention if not agreement. He explained that he would, and later did, sign the legislation that is still in the statute.

This single event was the highlight of Governor Blue's two-term gubernatorial career (1945-1949) and would be described by the Des Moines Register in its December 16, 1989, obituary of Governor Blue with the words "dramatic" and "courageous". In the following election year, 1948, this event would cost Governor Blue his re-election to a third term, but it would reflect the character of the man who, with three decades of public service to his state, placed principle above politics.

To commemorative coinage students and those familiar with the 1946 Iowa Statehood Centennial commemorative half dollar, Governor Robert D. Blue is known for his importance as the governor who established the still-existing Iowa Centennial Memorial Foundation and directed its current ownership of 1,000 Iowa half dollars until 1996 and 2046. This was reviewed in the article "500 in 1996 and 500 in 2046", The Journal, October 1989, Number 21.

This third article in the series will present a short biography of the late governor, who passed away in December 1989 at the age of 91. An extensive biography is not intended. However, since the governor did order these 1,000 half dollars stored, an extensive biography would be beneficial and appropriate to the full story of the 1946 Iowa Statehood Centennial commemorative half dollar.

Robert Donald Blue, who as a Republican, made effective use of his simple, easily-remembered name, even having his campaign literature printed on blue paper. He was born on September 24, 1898, in Eagle Grove, Iowa, where he was



to live his entire life except the four years while governor. <sup>1</sup>

He graduated from Eagle Grove High School, class of 1916, where he played basketball and was involved in public speaking. Beginning first as a forestry major at the now-named Iowa State University at Ames, he transferred in 1920 to Drake University Law School, graduating in 1922 with honors. He opened an office in his home town, which he maintained until his death. In fact, this author received correspondence from him on his business stationery, "Law Office of Robert D. Blue".

His political career began in 1924 with his election as county attorney of Wright County. A detailed summary of his political career is not necessary here. Briefly, over the next three decades he was elected Wright County Attorney, city attorney for Eagle Grove, Iowa State Representative where he was the Speaker (1941-1943) and then Lieutenant Governor (1943-1945).

On January 3, 1945, he became the thirtieth governor of Iowa, having "followed the traditional pattern of political advancement in Iowa"<sup>2</sup> working up from local offices to the State House. In his two terms, Governor Blue presented a commendable record with issues and legislation on additional state aid to local communities, the post-war housing shortage, property tax assessment reforms, soil conservation, liaisons with governors of neighboring states, and tax support for local road improvements. "As a politician, Blue supported the familiar Iowa philosophies of home rule, non-interference by outsiders, and the importance of counting pennies".<sup>3</sup> Governor Blue was defeated in the Republican primary election of 1948 by William Beardsley who went on to be elected in the general election. Governor Blue's defeat resulted largely from his aforementioned right-to-work stand.

Regardless of his defeat and the fact that he never again sought elected public office, he continued to serve for years on the governing body of the Iowa Centennial Memorial Foundation which he, as governor, had established. The Foundation remains to this day his most enduring legacy via its awards, endowments and scholarships. Additional facts on this foundation can be read in the previous article in this series.

In the years after being governor, Governor Blue "worked tirelessly on behalf of Iowa's elderly"<sup>4</sup> and was very much concerned with the problems of the aged, serving Iowa's succeeding governors on senior and aging commissions. When governor, he proposed and pushed for Iowa's first public employee retirement law as well as state inspection and licensing of nursing and retirement homes. His philosophy on senior and aged issues, like most of his politics, was simple, bipartisan, and direct. Speaking once on the loneliness of growing old, he remarked, "It is not salt and pepper that gives taste to food; it's the company."

As both governor and private citizen, Governor Blue, who had blue eyes, was described as "quiet, soft-spoken, and industrious".<sup>5</sup> A stickler for details and facts, he never expressed any bitterness in his defeat. He simply retired to Eagle Grove and his law practice where, after suffering a stroke in October 1989, he passed away on December 14, 1989. Governor Blue was not a coin hobbyist and once listed his interests as fishing, hunting, travel, farming (he raised hogs and corn), and home movies.

This is not much in the above biography to do justice to the man or his



service to Iowa nor to explain what motivated him as governor to order the 1,000 half dollars retained. These remaining half dollars could have easily been returned to the United States Mint to be melted, as had happened often with other contemporary commemorative issues, or even sold at a discount or in bulk; however, Governor Blue, using his authority under Public Law 612 (the act authorizing this commemorative issue) did otherwise. Why?

In researching, this author sought to learn what motivated Governor Blue, and his recent death obviously did not help. It should be remembered that under the law only the governor had the power to direct funds from this half dollar sale including those half dollars remaining unsold after the centennial (1846-1946) had passed. In a letter to this author, Governor Blue stated that he "deliberated" seeking advice as to what to do.

Barbara Blue Dittmar, the late Governor Blue's daughter, assisting this author in this article and reflecting on her father and looking back some four decades, offered insight into his personality and how that influenced his action to establish the Iowa Centennial Memorial Foundation and order its retention of the half dollars. Mrs. Dittmar states in a letter to this author:

"My father's decision was made, as are all such decisions, on the basis of his personality. He was proud to call himself a Scotsman, both his Mother and Father's people having come to this country from Scotland. Therefore, to put away and save for the future seemed as natural in his stewardship for the State as it did in his personal life. He was also strongly influenced by his Mother who grew up in Vermont and held the characteristic view of Vermonters, which included wasting neither time nor material. Therefore, rather than sell the coins off or return them to the Treasury, he did not 'waste' them; he saved them and in so doing caused them to become, over time, increasingly unique and valuable." <sup>6</sup>

She continues, "He was never happier than when finding a solution to a problem which no one else could find..." <sup>7</sup> Thus the foundation and the legacy of the remaining half dollars was his creative way of solving the burden of the unsold half dollars. Governor Blue himself in a letter to this author states that his action was "unique" and "at least I have never heard of this plan being used elsewhere".<sup>8</sup>

In addition, Mrs. Dittmar adds that her father, something this author in reading about Governor Blue strongly agrees with, "accomplished another goal, one dear to his as to most everyone, that of creating something which could last beyond his lifetime". Her father, she notes "spoke often in recent years of the celebrations he would anticipate would take place" in 1996 and 2046 and "enjoyed the thought of his creation being valuable and newsworthy so long after" his time.<sup>9</sup> Thanks to Mrs. Dittmar's kind input, the coin hobby now knows why her father, both frugal but also creative, acted in a singular way to preserve, long after his time, those half dollars.

In addition, Governor Blue had a deep interest in history. This author believes that being governor during the centennial year swayed him to leave this enduring legacy to future Iowans. His proclamation of January 6, 1949, which provided for the Iowa Centennial Memorial Foundation and transferred to it the half dollars, encourages "future citizens of Iowa to adopt those moral, social, and economic, and political ideals and philosophies of service to God and service to



their fellow man which made the pioneer Iowans a great people and which built a great state".<sup>10</sup>

The key statement which confirms his daughter's remembrances is at the end of the proclamation. "It is my earnest hope and prayer that the funds of this trust, like talents of old, in the hands of faithful servants may increase many fold, and that the increase thereof shall be used to inspire the people of Iowa to a greater love and a greater service to God and their fellow man."<sup>11</sup> Thus, Governor Blue sought and accomplished to provide his beloved state a most treasured memorial.

For coin hobbyists, commemorative coin students, and the State of Iowa, Governor Blue, never a coin hobbyist, has left one of this century's and next century's most important numismatic treasures which will undoubtedly earn much more in funds than these half dollars originally were sold for in 1947.

In a few years, this man who placed principal first will have bequeathed a most generous and unique legacy to the State of Iowa and Iowans, thus serving "our children and our children's children".<sup>12</sup>

## FOOTNOTES

1. This author referred to four sources in writing this short biography. For convenience, footnotes have been limited to direct quotations. This author is very much indebted to Steven F. Miller, the Deputy State Treasurer of Iowa for his continued assistance and to Barbara Blue Dittman, daughter of the late Governor Blue, for her remembrances.
2. Current Biography 1948, p. 51.
3. Des Moines Register. Obituary, December 16, 1989, pp. 1 & 11A.
4. *ibid.*
5. *ibid.*
6. Barbara Blue Dittmar, letter of March 5, 1990. This author thanks most kindly Mrs. Dittman for her informative and appreciative letter.
7. *ibid.*
8. Governor Robert D. Blue, letter of August 15, 1989.
9. Barbara Blue Dittman, *loc. cit.*
10. Robert Blue, Executive Proclamation, January 5, 1949.
11. *ibid.*
12. *ibid.*

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- Rothe, Anna (editor), Current Biography 1948, H.W. Wilson Co, New York, 1948.



# The Syngraphics Scene

by Ken Barr

## California Nationals

March 3, 1990, was an important day in the life of California National Bank note collectors, as the Philip Krakover collection was auctioned off in San Diego. Phil had spent approximately the last four years of his life collecting California nationals with quite a bit of zeal and enthusiasm, backed up by considerable cash from his real estate-based business in Los Angeles. Quoting cataloger John Hickman in the auction catalog, "His premature death at 51 robbed his family of a husband and father, his community of one of its dynamic leaders, and our hobby of a very valuable and significant member". Phil will certainly be missed by those who knew him.

With little additional fanfare, in the Stardust Motel adjacent to the ANA early spring convention in San Diego, Phil's collection was put on the block by Hickman Auctions of West Des Moines, IA. The 750-ish lots were almost entirely California nationals, mostly with single notes per lot. Most notes saw competitive floor bidding, despite John's comment about having received 600 mail bids prior to the sale. The truly scarce items went for considerable amounts of money (at least "considerable" as far as syngraphists are concerned—many coin-based numismatists would consider the prices relatively inexpensive!). Top price in the sale went, as expected, to the unique \$100 red seal from the Fort Sutter National Bank of Sacramento, in fine condition. Realizing \$9,000 (plus a 5% buyers fee), this note is not only unique for the bank, but unique for the STATE, as no other California red seal \$100's are known at this time. Second and fourth place in the sale went to two "semi-unique" notes, red seal \$50's from Sacramento and Fresno, these being the only two red seal \$50's known for the state. The California National Bank of Sacramento, in fine, realized \$4900 plus 5%, while the First National Bank of Fresno, in VG, brought \$4300 plus 5%.

Other "blockbuster" notes (realizing over \$1000) included a \$10 brown back from Bakersfield, a 1902 \$5 from Bay Point (now known as Port Chicago), a 1902 \$5 from Calexico (in AU+!), a 1902 \$10 from Clovis, a red seal \$5 from Colton, a 1902 \$20 from Colusa (THE only known note from Colusa County), a serial number 1 small size \$5 from Crows Landing (even though only in good condition!), an 1882 date back \$50 from Fresno, a \$20 brown back from Fullerton, a 1902 date back \$10 from Gilroy, a number 1 red seal \$5 from Glendale in XF-AU, a 1902 \$5 from the Farmers and Merchants National Bank of Hanford, a 1902 \$10 from Huntington Park, a number 1 \$5 1902 date back from Jamestown (one of only two notes from Tuolumne County!), a 1902 \$10 from Lindsay, a small size \$5 from Loma Linda (realized \$1050 plus 5%, even though it is only a rarity 4 small size, with eight small size notes known!), two 1875 \$10's from Los Angeles, a \$10 red seal from the Los Angeles National Bank of L. A., crisp uncirculated 1902 \$50 and \$100's from the Pacific National Bank of L. A., a crisp uncirculated serial #1 small size \$5 from Los Gatos, a \$100 1882 date back from



Oakland, an 1875 \$10 from Oakland, a \$10 red seal from Palo Alto, an uncut sheet of small size \$20's from Pasadena, a \$10 gold bank note from Petaluma, an uncut sheet of small size \$20's from Pleasanton, a 1902 \$20 from Porterville, a red seal \$5 (and a 1902 \$10) from Redondo, a 1902 \$10 from Roseville, a \$5 gold bank note from Sacramento, a \$5 red seal from the Fort Sutter National Bank of Sacramento, a \$5 brown back from San Bernardino, a \$10 red seal from San Diego, several San Francisco notes (\$5 gold bank, \$20 1875, \$50 1882 date back in XF-AU, 1902 \$10 serial #1 Crocker First in AU, \$10 gold bank, \$100 brown back, red seal \$5 from the Germania National Bank, red seal \$20 from the Merchants National Bank), \$5 gold bank from San Jose, uncirculated \$50 brown back from San Jose (one of only five brown back \$50's known for the entire state—realized \$4700 plus 5%), 1882 date back \$50 from Santa Barbara, 1902 \$10 from Santa Monica, \$20 gold bank from Stockton, \$10 red seal from Upland, 1902 \$10 from Victorville, 1902 \$5 date back from Weed and a 1902 \$5 from Wilmington.

Despite all the above-listed "wundernotes", the sale also contained hundreds of notes for the more modest pocketbook. Over two hundred of the lots were sold for less than \$100 per lot, and about the same number were hammered down for between \$100 and \$250 per lot. Some astute buyers, as usual, came away with great bargains, while others seem to have paid quite healthy prices for their acquisitions. Nothing seemed to sell for less than face value (as sometimes happens on multiple-piece lots when everyone falls asleep during the sale), but some relatively nice large size notes from San Francisco and Los Angeles were sold for less than double face value. Even on the one-of-a-kind or one-of-two-known notes, some bargains were had. Any *Journal* readers interested in specific cities or areas may write me at P. O. Box 32541, San Jose, CA 95152 with questions about what was sold and I'll try to summarize information from the sale catalog for them.

All in all, it was quite a fascinating experience for all collectors of and dealers in California national bank notes. The prices realized will probably be used for years to come in the dickering between collectors and dealers. I can almost hear it now ... "but the VF in the Krakover sale realized \$1100, so surely this AU is worth \$1500!" and "it only brought \$850 in 1990, why are you asking \$1700 now??" Rest in peace, Phil, with the knowledge that you've changed the face of collecting California nationals for all time.

---

## References and Suggestions for Further Reading:

Hickman, John, and Oakes, Dean Standard Catalog of National Bank Notes. Krause Publications, 1982.

The Philip Krakover California National Bank Note Auction. Hickman Auctions, Inc., Drawer 66009, West Des Moines, IA 50265. (Additional copies of the sale catalog *may* still be available, but probably not many!)



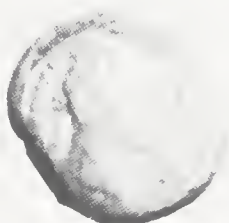
# A Brief Introduction to Alexandrian Nome Coinage

by Kerry K. Wetterstrom

Alexandrian or Roman-Egyptian coinage (both designations are commonly used) has received well-deserved attention by the numismatic fraternity over the last few years. This attention has not neglected the so-called "nome" coinage of Alexandria which is currently being studied and researched with new perspectives. [1] The primary difference between the regular issue Roman-Egyptian coinage and the sub-series nome coinage is the epigraphical use of the nome's *ethnic* (the name of the issuing authority) or an abbreviation thereof on the reverse of the coin.

The ethnic serves to identify the nome in conjunction with the design motif or type also employed on the reverse. The reverse type was supposed to be indicative of the local cult of the Egyptian religion worshipped in each particular nome, city or administrative entity. Not all of the ethnics in question actually represented a nome but the designation as a class has served to satisfy the titular instincts of numismatists.

Under the Roman emperor Domitian (81-96 AD), the first nome hemidrachmas were issued in his 11th Alexandrian regnal year, 91/92 AD. (The Alexandrian or Egyptian new year began on August 29.) Nome coins of the drachma denomination were issued under Trajan (98-117 AD) during his Alexandrian regnal years 12-15 and 20 and under Hadrian (117-138 AD) from regnal years 6-8. These coins are extremely rare. This nome drachma series was continued by Antoninus Pius (138-161 AD) and Marcus Aurelius Caesar (139-161 AD) during Pius' regnal year 8.



*Hadrian, bronze obol and reverse of the dichalkon of the Coptite nome*

A new denominational series of nome coins was issued by Hadrian during his 11th Alexandrian regnal year (126/127 AD). This remarkable series consisted of the two smallest denominations, obol and dichalkon. The reverse type of the dichalkon is always the nome symbol which was being held by the standing figure/deity on the reverse of the obol.

It should be noted at this point that most of the names, if not all, used to designate the nomes on the Alexandrian coinage, such as Herakleopolites or Hermopolites, were the Greek interpretations devised by the Ptolemaic dynasty.[2] They assimilated the local cult god with its nearest equivalent in the Greek pantheon to arrive at an appropriate name for the nome. The Romans continued this assimilation process by further merging the reverse types with attributes of the Horus/Isis cult which was extremely popular during Roman times. Thus, a study of Roman-Egyptian nome coinage is only indicative of the nomes, cities, etc. as they



probably existed during the second century AD with their Greco-Roman attributes and not as they existed under the Pharaonic dynasties.

Joseph Grafton Milne was probably the first to correctly surmise that the nome coinage was struck in Alexandria itself and not in the nomes as tradition maintained. Milne based his conclusion on the similarities in style and fabric and the fact that Alexandria was the administration center for most of Egypt. [3] Recently, Milne's conclusion has been further corroborated by a demonstration of a reverse die intended for a dichalkon of the Phthemphutite nome that was recut from a die accidentally engraved with the ethnic for the Phtheneotite nome.[4]



*Antoninus Pius, bronze drachm with Gemini and Mercury reverse*

In addition, an obverse die link between a standard Alexandrian obol of Hadrian and an obol of the Arsinoite nome was illustrated.[5] These two discoveries, although extremely important, are not the first time that evidence has been published to establish Alexandria as the mint city for the nome coinage as their author suggests.[6] Carl W.A. Carlson noted in an article he authored in 1973 in the journal of the Society of Ancient Numismatics (SAN) that an obverse die link existed between a drachma of Antoninus Pius with a "Mercury in Gemini" zodiac reverse (Dattari 2962) and a drachma of the Mareote nome (Dattari 6293), both coins were in the Johns Hopkins University collection until 1984.[7] They provide conclusive evidence also that Alexandria was the mint-city for the nome coinage.

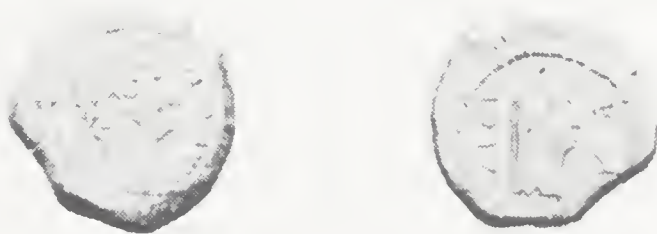


*Antoninus Pius, bronze drachm of the Mareote nome*



With Alexandria firmly established as the mint-city for the nome coinage, the other question that has been a major dilemma for numismatists is the *raison d'être* for this remarkable series of coins. Evidence is inconclusive for the suggestion that these coins were intended to circulate in the nomes themselves.[8] The rarity of these coins would tend to dispute any large scale circulation plans, especially when compared to the extremely large numbers of Alexandrian coinage existent in general.

This author has previously suggested that the nome coinage may have been issued for commemorative reasons such as gifts for nome administrators or religious officials.[9] If, as also suggested, the reverse types used may have been offensive to local religious officials, this theory would appear to be incorrect. Another possibility for two issues in the nome series would be as decennalia (festivals celebrating a Roman emperor's ten year period of reign) commemoratives for Domitian and Hadrian. Domitian's first issue and Hadrian's issue of his 11th regnal year in Alexandria could have been Decennalia issues. The timing is correct.



*Hadrian, bronze obol of the Arsinoite nome  
Egyptian king's head reverse*

Acknowledging the fact that the mint had already issued a few rare nome drachmae during Hadrian's regnal years 6-8, Alexandrian mint officials may have been prompted to issue the heretofore unprecedented issue of obols and dichalkoi to honor Hadrian's Decennalia. This still does not explain Trajan's and Antoninus Pius' issues. If Trajan's issues and the early issues of Hadrian are dismissed as merely imitative or revival issues by ignorant mint officials unaware of their original decennalia significance, then Pius' issues of his regnal year 8 could be explained as commemorative issues, along with the zodiac issues of the same year of the Great Sothic Cycle which occurred early in Pius' reign.

The importance of the Great Sothic Cycle to the Egyptians cannot be underestimated. It is possible that the Alexandrian mint officials held nothing back in their commemoration of this event which occurred only once every 1461 years.[10] The rarity and sporadic issue of the nome coinage in general would specifically eliminate the theory that they were only additions to the regular stock types of the Alexandria mint.

Hopefully, further study will illuminate the nome series even more and enhance our understanding of this enigmatic series.

## FOOTNOTES

1. Jennifer A. Sheridan, "The Nome Coins of Alexandria, Another Look" (New York, ANS, Museum Notes 33, 1988) pp.107-110; Keith Emmett, "Egyptian



and Roman Cults Mix in Nome Coinage" (Lodi, **The Celator**, January 1988), pp. 13-14.

2. The word "nome" itself is the anglicized Greek word *nomos*. This word in Greece proper usually is "found in the sense of 'law.'" In Magna Graecia, however, "it was used in a sense derived from its basic meaning of 'apportionment, division' as a name for the standard unit of silver coinage, the equivalent of a stater in Greece and Asia Minor." It was from this sense that it was applied to the "divisions" of Egypt.

3. J.G. Milne, "The Nome Coins of Egypt" (London, **Ancient Egypt**, 1932), pp.73-78.

4. Jennifer A. Sheridan, "Nome Coins", pp. 108/109.

5. *ibid.*

6. *ibid.*

7. Carl W.A. Carlson, "Rarities 3 - The Zodiac Series" (Los Angeles, **SAN** Vol. IV, 1972/1973, No. 3), p. 47.

8. Keith Emmett, "Egyptian and Roman Cults...", p.13.

9. Kerry K. Wetterstrom, "Fixed Price List of Classical Coins of Roman Egypt" (Quarryville, **Historical Coin Review**, Vol. XIII, # 2, Spring 1988), p.20.

10. The Great Sothic Cycle commemorated the celestial alignment of the rising of the sun, rising of Sothis (Sirius, the Dog star) and the start of Inundation in the Nile Valley. This event occurred only once every 1461 years and was recorded by the Egyptians back to the Predynastic era.

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Milne, J.G., *Catalogue of the Alexandrian Coins in the Ashmolean Museum*, 1971 (New York reprint).

Poole, R.S., *Catalogue of the Coins of Alexandria and the Nomes in the British Museum (BMC)*, 1892 (Bologna reprint).



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# THE EARLY HISTORY OF P.C.N.S.

by Don T. Thrall



A postal card notice dated San Francisco, 6-21-15, announcing a meeting of numismatists on Thursday, June 24, 1915, in room 805 of the Hooker and Lent Building, 503 Market Street, at 8:00 p.m. sharp was the beginning of the Pacific Coast Numismatic Society. The new \$50 slug and \$2.50 commemorative coins were shown.

The invitation was signed *I. Leland Steinman, Sect'y*. The preliminary meeting was held on June 17, 1915, in Mr. Steinman's office in the Hooker & Lent Building. A motion was unanimously carried that it was the desire of those present to form themselves into a permanent organization. Mr. Zerbe made a motion which carried that a meeting be called for June 24 and at that meeting by-laws and rules of order be submitted along with the election of officers and selection of the name for the society. There were eight men present at this preliminary meeting.



The first meeting convened in Mr. Steinman's office on June 24. There were ten men present. The committee on by-laws submitted the same and suggested the following names for the organization: San Francisco Coin Club, Golden West Coin Society, California Numismatic Society, and Pacific Coast Numismatic Society. After much discussion it was unanimously carried that the name of the society be the Pacific Coast Numismatic Society. The following officers were elected: Fred T. Huddart, President; A.C. Nygren, Vice-President; I. Leland Steinman, Secretary/Treasurer; Farran Zerbe, Curator.



Apparently exhibits have been an important part of the meetings since the society's inception. At the meeting of September 7, 1915, the following were exhibited: two Baldwin \$10 pieces, two Wass-Molitor \$50 slugs, an Iron Cross of 1813, a set of Esperanto coins, notes and money orders, a large emigrant token and a frame of fractional currency.

The speaker of the evening, H.O. Granby, President of the American Numismatic Association, displayed many of the issues of U.S. currency including demand notes, simple and compound interest-bearing notes, silver certificates, New York, Boston and Washington bills, a large assortment of national gold bank notes and a number of unusual items. Among the coins he exhibited were the extremely rare half-dime of 1802, two of the finest known 1796 half-dollars, one of the two genuine Confederate half-dollars, Confederate one cent restrikes in copper, nickel and gold, a Kohler \$16 bar, an 1823 quarter-dollar, an 1804 dollar and a large assortment of California and Oregon gold. There were eight members and guests present to enjoy all of those goodies.

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*All of the above was taken from early records in the PCNS archives.*



## THE OCCASIONAL ROMAN MINT AT LONDON

When Julius Caesar "conquered" Britain about 54 BC, he found little to pass for recognizable coinage by Roman standards. Local Celtic chieftains occasionally issued small gold, silver and bronze coins of crude design, usually without legends and of unpredictable weight and purity standards, which were intended for trade or very local circulation.

Caesar almost immediately abandoned Britain, and Rome had only minimal contact with its newest and most remote province for nearly another century. It is clear, however, that the flow of Roman coinage into Britain increased during these years, and local unofficial minters (counterfeiters) were producing crude copies of early Roman bronze coins by the time of "Eye" Claudius in large quantities. The Celtic issues diminished rapidly in quantity, but no official mint yet filled the need for coins of Roman issue.

The first minting by Roman officials in Britain may have been during Hadrian's visit to Britain about 122 AD to suppress a revolt which appears to have wiped out the entire Ninth Roman Legion. This would have been a travelling military mint moving with the Emperor and his troops, not an established mint office. Little evidence exists for this speculation, *but official dies for an issue about a dozen years later were found in Britain!*

Another comparable issue with *Britannia* reverse may have been struck locally under Antoninus Pius in about 154 AD, but no regular mint was yet established. Dependence on coins from Roman mints in Gaul continued, leading to increased counterfeiting in Britain, eventually producing an entire class of locally-issued light-weight fakes known collectively as *Barbarous Radiates*.



*Carausius*

The Romans maintained a fleet in the English Channel area to control pirate activity in the third century. The admiral of this fleet, M. Aurelius Mausaeus Carausius, found it was more profitable to *allow* the pirates to plunder a coastal town and catch them afterward, confiscating the loot they had already taken. When the Emperor learned of this practice, he ordered Carausius' arrest.

Carausius responded to this news by sailing to Britain with the Channel Fleet and establishing himself as the Emperor of the island in about 287, ruling for about 6 years. During his short reign, he established the first *official* mint at London (*Londinium*), striking coins to Roman standards in his own name. A smaller British mint at Cochester operated during part of the usurpation of Carausius as well.

Allectus, an official under Carausius, killed Carausius in 293 AD, ruling in his stead and striking coins at London until his own death in 296 during the reconquest of Britain by the central Roman government in the person of Constantius I. The Roman government issued its standard coinage at the mint of London from this time, bringing in imperial mint officials transferred from Lugdunum in Gaul. Coinage changes were required due to a reform of the coinage which the central government



had instituted in 295 AD, shortly before retaking Britain. The London mint had been issuing the old-style coinage.

London continued as one of about twenty official mints operating from the time of Diocletian's reform into the sole-reign period of Constantine I with his numerous family members. The mint in London was closed officially in 325, just after Constantine had begun issuing a dynastic coinage in the names of Constantine I, Crispus, Constantine II, Constantius II, Helena and Fausta. London mint issues for the Empresses, Helena and Fausta, are quite rare, as are those of Constantius II who was made Caesar as this last coinage was begun, very shortly before the mint's closure. Once again the Britons began producing *Barbarous Radiates*.

The next and last instance of Roman coinage at London comes with another Roman usurper, Magnus Maximus. He was a senior officer helping put down local rebellions against Roman rule in Britain. He remained with the troops stationed in Britain after their victory there, but, using his military command, he claimed the imperial purple in his own name early in 383 AD. He reopened minting operations, having no other mint under his control, and struck coins for a very short time at London, which was temporarily known as *Augusta*. He was eventually recognized as an official co-ruler by the Emperors at Rome and Constantinople. At that point other mints began to issue his coins, and the mint in Britain was finally closed shortly thereafter, probably by late 384. This last issue of London coins does not bear the mintmarks previously used at London, making their identification difficult and even tentative in most instances. All of this issue were of gold and silver, mainly in the name of Magnus Maximus, but a couple of pieces are known from 384 AD in the name of Theodosius, the Roman Emperor who finally recognized Magnus Maximus. All told, possibly a dozen British pieces of this last London mint are known!

The coins struck by Romans in Britain form an interesting and affordable collection area. Though there are some rarities, representative examples of most periods can be obtained for very modest sums. The most common London mint issues of Constantine I are regularly available as cheaply as those of any other common Roman issues.

Many collectors of British coinage are surprised to learn that British coins from Roman times are as readily available as common hammered silver. Collections of medieval English coinage are often extended back into Roman times creating a historic span of nearly 2000 years. Texts in English which cover the coinage of Roman Britain are readily available.

For the collector of British coins, Roman Britain allows a foot in the doorway of the ancient world. These coins are more easily read by the English-language-only collector than medieval English pieces!

## REFERENCES

A listing of relevant and available books follows as a dare:

- The Coinage of Roman Britain* by Gilbert Askew. 2nd ed., Seaby, London, 1980.  
*Coinage in Roman Britain* by Richard Reece. 1st ed., Seaby, London, 1987.  
*Roman Coinage in Britain* by P. J. Casey. Shire Archaeology Publications, 1980.  
*Coins of England and the United Kingdom* ed. by Mitchell & Reeds, Seaby, 1988.

*From the Idle Mind of Stephen M. Huston is a regular column of  
The Journal which focuses on ancient and medieval times.*



# HOW TO COLLECT THE WORLD FOR FREE

*Well, Almost*

by George L. Smyth

When I began collecting coins in the late 1950s, much of the nearly 50-year stretch of the Lincoln cent series remained in circulation. For 50 cents I was able to swap rolls at the bank, often finding coins to fill holes in my collection. Because I received only 25 cents allowance each week, the thought of purchasing coins in excess of face value never entered my mind. I considered my new-found hobby "free" because, at worst, I could always spend my efforts.

Thirty years later, I entered a new stage in life. Although my job provided me with enough income to pay the rent, utilities and other necessities, I had little to spend on my collection. I wanted to continue my fascination with numismatics but was unable to actively support the hobby. Considering the problem, I came to the conclusion that I needed to find another way to collect for free. The solution to this dilemma involved collecting world paper money. Admittedly, at times, I have purchased items from dealers, but the majority of my paper money collection has been acquired by building a rapport with the individuals who man the foreign exchange section at my bank and having them supply me with nice specimens of current issues.

I work in Washington, D.C. My bank is only a couple of blocks from my office and can be accessed during my lunch hour. Initially one might suspect that working in a large metropolitan area has a great advantage because of the large number of banks with foreign exchange sections, but I maintain this is not necessarily so. Washington, being a very busy town, has an environment which fosters a distinct disadvantage: often people are too rushed to avail their time to someone "unimportant."

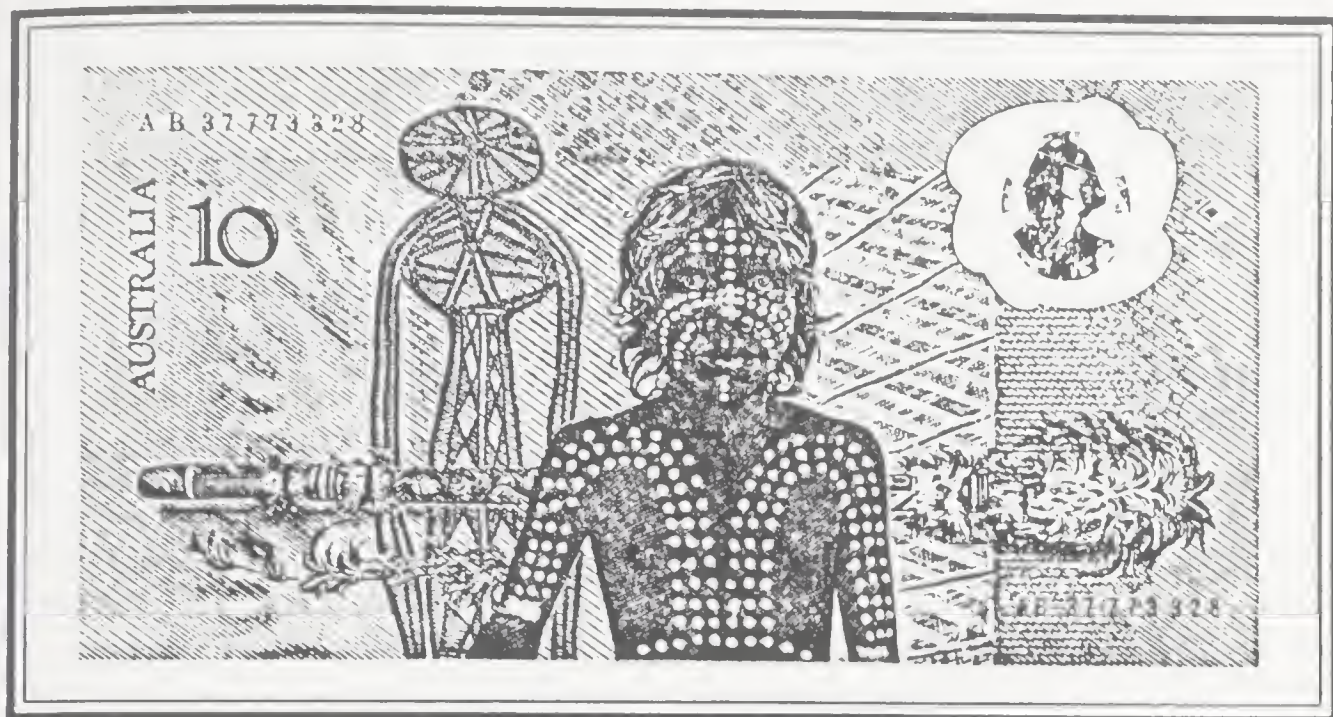
The push to succeed can force some people to filter their responses to accomodate only those who will help them acquire their goal. The collector who requires help is certainly not a high priority, especially one requesting a small transaction. The bank that prides itself as being the largest in this area has made clear to me a lack of enthusiasm for the small-moneyed individual. In an area where there is more time and less emphasis on big money, creating a rapport with a teller may not be as difficult.

Bank tellers are people like the rest of us—often willing to go at least a little out of the way to do a favor for a polite individual. Below are several ideas to keep in mind.

— Be considerate of the person behind the counter by visiting a bank only during slow times. You will be asking this teller to perform duties beyond the scope of their job without extra remuneration. Clearly, arriving at the bank five minutes before closing time is not in this spirit. As most people will be using the bank's other facilities, the foreign exchange section is generally a rather quiet spot, so your lunch break may be a good time.

— Identify yourself as a collector and ask if there are any nice looking bills from the country of your choice. The teller will probably have no understanding that bills with heavy folds and ragged edges are not what you are searching for, so be gentle





when explaining why you may not be interested in lower condition notes. The tellers at my bank know of my limited means and understand why I may wish to forestall the purchase of a bill, waiting until, hopefully, a better-looking example becomes available.

— Your sincere appreciation means a great deal. Remember that the teller's job is to provide you with the amount of currency you desire, but there is nothing that states that he/she should devote additional time to allow you to choose which bill will be placed in your possession. Expressing your appreciation upon the purchase of a bill will facilitate the teller's desire to help you the next time you come in.

— Enthusiasm is contagious. When a teller sees someone genuinely interested in what he/she considers mundane, their interest may be piqued. The woman who works at the foreign exchange desk at my bank volunteered to set aside notes which she doesn't see very often, allowing me to purchase obsolete bills. It's like having a friend in a bank on the outlook for silver coins.

— Be a regular customer. As long as the teller recognizes you and realizes that you will be returning on a consistent basis, he may be more helpful by identifying unusual or colorful bills in his possession. Consistency is essential if you want to ask to have certain bills set aside for you.

— The availability of foreign banknotes is seasonal and related to the strength of the dollar. Summer is the season typically devoted to vacation travel, thus winter will show a distinct lack of varieties available, as the bank may be reluctant to acquire more banknotes than it feels it will need to satisfy demand. When the dollar is weak, the bank will forestall the purchase of foreign notes, as they will drop in value when the dollar becomes stronger. For the beginner, the lack of variety will be of little significance, as everything is needed.

— Allow for a lack of perfection. An uncirculated bill is one which is perfect, a condition you will find only occasionally at the bank. Typically, I obtain bills in AU or XF condition, discernable from uncirculated bills only under close inspection. Although you do want bills in nice condition, occasionally accept lower quality so as not to frustrate the teller. Remember, you can always turn them back in at face value (plus the nominal exchange charge).



— Stay away from large denomination bills. In the United States we seldom experience double-digit inflation, while many other countries normally contend with a much worse situation. Today's expensive bill could be tomorrow's throwaway bill. As an example, I have a 100 *australes* bill from Argentina in my collection which, because of its face value in 1986, is listed in the Pick catalogue as valued at \$160 in uncirculated condition. I recently purchased the bill from a dealer for about \$5 because of the horrid inflation in that country. I'm certain some unfortunate souls paid full price for that large denomination bill several years ago. If you confine interest to the historical and social aspects of the collection, a bill worth one dollar will remain as significant as one worth one hundred dollars.

— Learn, learn, learn! Sitting back and purchasing coins which someone else has graded and encased in plastic can get boring rather quickly. Spend some of your hard-earned money to purchase Albert Pick's *Standard Catalog of World Paper Money* (Volume 2). The cash outlay of about \$40 will pay itself back many times over as its more than 1,000 pages yield pictures and pricing information for all general issues. Subscribing to the *Bank Note Reporter* and/or joining The Society of Paper Money Collectors will keep you in touch with new issues and collectors with



similar interests.

What you decide to collect is an individual decision. I collect notes portraying composers, tyrants, Queen Elizabeth II, the countries of Australia, Iran, Nepal, special issues from Wales and current issues, all for differing personal reasons. Choose an interest and go at it. Collecting based on your individual interests and gathering information are self-feeding activities. You will find yourself a regular in the library digging up information about Franz Hals, Paul Bogle, or many of the other individuals portrayed on today's foreign currency. Certainly you will find collecting world paper money to be considerably more interesting than collecting coins distinguished from each other merely by their differing dates and investment potentials.

*Australian and Irish notes illustrated have been reduced 35%.*





## MEDALS ROUND-UP



### SAN FRANCISCO COIN CLUB — 1989 Medal

In 1989, the San Francisco Coin Club issued a medal commemorating the Golden Gate Exposition. Depicted on the obverse is a building from the exposition. The reverse is the club logo.

#### Specifications:

Minted by Masterpiece Medallions, Claremont CA

Designed by Thomas F. Kelly (obverse only; reverse is club logo)

Diameter: 39mm round

Mintages: Silver (.999, 1 oz.) 100 numbered  
35 unnumbered

Golden Bronze 230

Oxidized Bronze 135



A few examples of the bronzes are still available. Golden Bronze is available separately at \$1.75 or Golden Bronze with the Oxidized Bronze as a set are \$3.50. \$.50 postage should be added to each order.

### SAN FRANCISCO COIN CLUB — 1990 Medal

The San Francisco Coin Club has recently released information on its 1990 medal. This year's obverse will use a modified reverse from the 1915 Pan Pacific \$50 gold piece. The reverse is the club logo as shown on the previous medal.

#### Specifications:

Minted by Masterpiece Medallions, Claremont CA

Designed by SFCC Officers

Diameter: 39mm round

Mintages: Silver (.999, 1 oz.) 100 numbered



Mintages, cont.

Oxidized Bronze

35 unnumbered

unknown at press time



Oxidized bronze medals are \$3 each, postpaid. Sets of Silver and Oxidized Bronze are available for \$20 postpaid.

Either San Francisco Coin Club medals or sets described above should be ordered from Mark Clark, P.O. Box 31544, San Francisco, CA 94131. Checks should be payable to SFCC, Inc.

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*Continued from page 8*

The greater portion of this book is comprised of a listing of the known pieces. Rarity ratings and approximate retail prices are included, the latter for several grades. Each die pairing, planchet metal and edge variety is so treated. The valuations are based upon a combination of auction prices and the author's own experience and observations.

Each die is illustrated and enumerated whenever possible. The established Adams-Miller numbers are used with whatever embellishment are deemed necessary.

The quality of the illustrations varies from excellent to unclear, with most falling somewhere in between. A second printing of this volume, now under way, should correct this problem. The pages are photocopied onto heavy stock, and the whole is spiral bound. The entire production suffers somewhat in appearance when compared to the first volume which was a much more polished work. The limited market for such a publication may make this change unavoidable, but it is nonetheless disappointing to the user.

Nevertheless, "American Counters Part 2: Half Eagle Gold" represents the latest information available to collectors of these pieces and is an important addition to the literature of this field. Priced at \$16.90 postpaid, the book is available from Oak Grove Publications, P.O. Box 521, Menlo Park, CA 94026.

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*Benj Fauver is a member of PCNS and has published several books on the subjects of game counters and tokens. Specific price information on all his publications can be obtained at the address given above.*

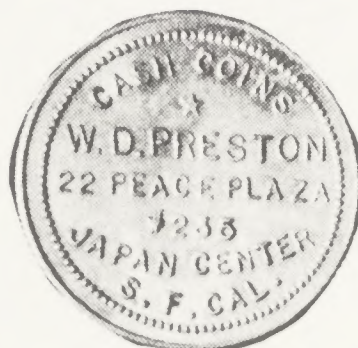


## SAN FRANCISCO THROUGH ITS TOKENS

### *Cash Coins*

by Jerry F. Schimmel

William D. "Bill" Preston operated a coin shop in the Japan Center between 1972 and 1976. For quite a while before that he was located at 309 Hyde Street, near O'Farrell Street, in the middle of the Tenderloin. While Bill did not have a reputation as a "top drawer" numismatist, he did issue a handsome brass 28mm token.



It reads: **CASH COINS, W. D. PRESTON, 22 PEACE PLAZA #235, JAPAN CENTER, S.F. CAL.; GOOD FOR ONE CENT-IN-A-BOTTLE.** The main feature is the famous Peace Pagoda. One of his advertising give-aways was a U.S. cent in a small bottle to which the legend refers. The latest information available about him is that he bought a farm and moved out of town with his wife and children.



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